

MORE. Letter to Gov. Wm. Penn. 1686

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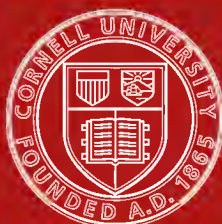
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A
L E T T E R
FROM
Doctor Moore, *Nicholson*
WITH
Passages out of several Letters
from Persons of good Credit,
Relating to the State and Improvement of
the Province of
PENNSILVANIA.

Published to prevent false Reports.

Printed in the Year 1687.

A. 173181

[An original of the pamphlet which we here print is in the library of the late John Carter Brown, of Providence, Rhode Island. We are indebted to the Hon. John Russell Bartlett for his attention in comparing the transcript used in printing with the original, and for a tracing of the title page, which we have endeavored to copy. In regard to the "fac-simile," Mr. Bartlett writes, "The only difference between it and the original is in the 6th line, beginning with the word Passages. This line in the original is in a type a trifle larger and heavier. . . . The date also varies a little, the figures 6 and 8 in the original extending above the 1 and 7."]

— *Pennsylvania Magazine* Vol. iv. 1830.

A LETTER FROM DOCTOR MORE WITH PASSAGES
OUT OF SEVERAL LETTERS FROM
PERSONS OF GOOD CREDIT.

RELATING TO THE STATE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF
PENNSILVANIA.

Published to prevent false Reports. Printed in the year 1687.

THE PREFACE.

Divers false Reports going about Town and Country; to the Injury of the Province of Pennsilvania, I was prevailed with by some concerned in that Province, and others that desire the truth of things, to Publish such of the last Letters as made mention of the State of the Country; to serve for answer to the Idle and Unjust Stories that the Malice of some invent, and the Credulity of others prepare them to receive against it; which is all the part I take in this present Publication.

WILLIAM PENN.

A Letter from Dr. More.

Honored Governour.

I have seen a Letter from your hand, directed to me, among many in this *Province*, which came by Captain *Richard Dimond*: It was in all respect welcome to me, and more particularly, for that you make mention of your coming to us again, with your Family; a thing so much desired by all in these parts, and more particularly by my self. But I fear that *Madam Penn* should give too much credit to the evil Reports that I do understand are given out by many Enemies to this new Colony, as if we were ready to *Famish*, and that the Land is so barren, the Clime so hot, that *English Grain, Roots and Herbs* do not come to Maturity; and what grows, to be little worth. How untrue all these things are you well know; but we that have seen our handy Work, accompanied with God's blessing

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upon it, since your departure from us, are able to say something more to encourage you to return to us again. You know, that when you went for *England*, there was an indifferent plenty of most things, and that many hundred Families were clearing of Land to Sow and Plant, as I was also doing; since that, our Lands have been grateful to us, and have begun to reward our Labours by abounding Crops of *Corn* this Year. But to give you to understand the full of our Condition, with respect to *Provision* in this Province; we had last Fall, and the Winter, abundance of good fresh *Pork* in our Market at two Pence half-penny *per* pound, of this Country Money, which is an English two Pence; Beef at the same rate; the like is this Year; and *Butter* for six Pence *per* Pound; *Wheat* for four Shillings *per* Bushel; *Rye* three Shillings; and now all this Summer *Wheat* is at three Shillings, & three Shillings 6 Pence; *Rye* at eight Groats, and half a Crown; *Indian-Corn* seven Groats, and two Shillings this Country Money still; so that there is now some Corn Transported from this River. Doctor *Butler* has bought two hundred Bushels of *Wheat* at three Shillings six Pence, to Transport, & several others, so that some Thousands of Bushels are Transported this Season, and when this Crop that now is gathered is Threshed, it is supposed that it will be abundantly cheaper than now it is, for there has been abundance of Corn this Year in every Plantation.

The last year I did plant about twelve Acres of *Indian Corn*, and when it came off the Ground, I did only cause the Ground to be Harrowed, and upon that I did sow both *Wheat* and *Rye*, at which many Laughed, saying, *That I could not expect any Corn from what I had sowed, the Land wanting more Labour*; yet I had this Year as good *Wheat* and *Rye* upon it, as was to be found in any other place, and that very bright Corn. I have had a good Crop of *Barley* and *Oats* and whereas my People did not use my *Barley* well, so that much was shed upon the Ground, I caused it immediately to be Plowed in, and is now growing, keeping a good Colour, and I am in hope of another Crop of *Barley*, having good Ears tho the Straw be shorter. I did plant an *Hopp-Garden* this Spring,

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which is now exceeding full of *Hopps*, at which all English People admire. *Richard Collet* and *Samuel Carpenter*, &c., having had some Fields of *Rye* the last Summer, and plowed the Stubble in order to sow other Corn, by some Casualty could not sow their Fields; yet have they had *considerable Crops of Rye*, in the said Fields, by what had been shed on the Ground in Harvest time. I have had *seventy Ears of Rye* upon one single Root, proceeding from one single Corn; *forty five of Wheat: eighty of Oats; ten, twelve and fourteen of Barley* out of one Corn: I took the Curiosity to tell one of the twelve Ears from one Grain, and there was in it forty five Grains on that Ear; above *three Thousand of Oats* from one single Corn, and some I had, that had much more, but it would seem a Romance rather than a Truth, if I should speak what I have seen in these things,

Arnoldus de la Grange hath above a Thousand Bushels of *English Grain* this year, there is indeed a great increase every where. I had the last year as good *Turnops, Carrots* and *Parsnops* as could be expected, and in no wise inferior to those in *London*, the *Parsnops* better, and of a great bigness; my Children have found out a way of Rosting them in the Embers, and are as good as *Barbadoes-Potatoes*, insomuch that it is now become a dish with us. We have had admirable *English Pease* this Summer; every one here is now persuaded of the *fertility* of the ground, and *goodness* of the climate, here being nothing wanting, with industry, that grows in *England*, and many delicious things, not attainable there; and we have this common advantage above *England*, that all things grow better, and with less labour. I have planted this Spring a Quickset, of Sixscore Foot long, which grows to admiration; we find as good *Thorns* as any in the World.

We have had so great abundance of *Pigeons* this Summer, that we have fed all our Servants with them. A Gentlewoman near the City, which is come into this Province since you went for England (*Mrs. Jeffs* from *Ireland*) Cured *Sturghion* the last year, and I have eaten some this Summer at her House, as good as you can get in *London*; Some *Barbadoes* Merchants are treating with her for several Barrels for the *Barbadoes*,

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and will give her anything for them. We are wanting of some more good Neighbours to fill up the Country. There is a *French* Gentleman who made the last Year some *Wine* of the *wild Grapes*, which proved *admirable good, and far above the best Mader as that you ever tasted*, a little higher colour'd. And one thing I must take notice of that we strove to make *Vinegar* of it, but it is so full of Spirit that it will not easily turn to *Vinegar*; a certain evidence of its long keeping. Your *Vigeron* had made a Barrel of the same *Wine*, resolving to keep it for your *Entertainment*; I being one day there, and speaking of what I had tasted at *Monsieur Pelison's*, he shewed me a Barrel, which he said was of the same sort that he had taken a great deal of care to secure from being meddled with, he tauhing the head, it sounded empty, at which the man was so amased, that he was ready to Faint; afterwards looking about, it had leaked underneath, to about two Quarts; I tasted it, and it was yet very good *Wine*, so I left the poor man much afflicted for his loss. But I must acquaint you with one thing, that he having planted some *French Vines*, the twenty fourth of *March*, the last year, the same *Vines* have brought forth some *Grapes* this year, and some of them were presented to *President Lloyd* the 28th of July, fully *Black* and *Ripe*, which is a thing unheard of, or very extraordinary. I thought that this short account of our present State and Condition, and Improvement would not be ill news to you, considering that you know me not forward to put my hand to Paper slightly; wherefore I hope that your Lady will not despise what I do here report, as being the very truth of things; and if I could contribute thereby to her full Satisfaction, I should have my end, as being willing to see you and her in this place, where I shall not fear being rebuked for mis-representing things, I shall conclude,

Governor,

Green-Spring the 13th }
of *September*, 1686. }

Your truly affectionate Friend and Servant,

NICHOLAS MORE.

A Letter from Doctor More.

Madame *Farmer* has found out as good *Lime-Stone*, on the *School-kill*, as any in the World, and is building with it; she offers to sell ten Thousand Bushels at six Pence the Bushel, upon her Plantation, where there is several considerable Hills, and near to your manner of *Springfield*. N. M.

In a Letter from the Governors Steward, Octob. 3, 1686.

The *Gardiner* is brisk at Work. The *Peach-Trees* are much broken down with the weight of Fruit this Year. All or most of the Plants that came from *England* grow, (being about four Thousand.) *Cherries* are sprung four and five Foot. *Pears*, *Codlings* and *Plumbs* three or four Foot. *Pears* and *Apple Grafts*, in *Country Stocks*, and in *Thorns*, are sprung three and four Foot. *Rasberries*, *Goosberries*, *Currans*, *Quinces*, *Roses*, *Walnuts* and *Figs* grow well. *Apricocks* from the Stone fourteen or sixteen Inches sprung, since the Month called *April*. Our *Barn*, *Porch* and *Shed*, are full of *Corn* this year.

In a Letter from the Governors Gardiner, dated the 14th of the Month, call'd May, 1686.

As for those things I brought with me, it is much for People in *England* to believe me of the growth of them; some of the *Trees* and *Bulbes* are shot in five weeks time, some one Inch, some two, three, four, five, six, seven, yea some a eleven Inches; some of them not ten days set in the Ground before they put out Buds. And seeds do come on apace; for those Seeds that in *England* take fourteen days to rise, are up here in six or seven days. Pray make agreement with the Bishop of *London's Gardiner* or any other that will furnish us with *Trees*, *Shrubs*, *Flowers* and Seeds, and we will furnish them from these places; for we have excellent *Trees*, *Shrubs* and *Flowers*, & Herbs here, which I do not know I ever saw in any Gardens in *England*.

In a Letter from Robert Turner a Merchant in Philadelphia and one of the Councel, the 15th of October, 1686.

I also advise, that, blessed be God, *Corn* is very cheap this Season; *English Wheat* sold here, to carry for *New-England* at three Shillings six Pence per Bushel, and much *Wheat*-

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Flower and *Bisket* for *Barbadoes*. Things prosper very well, and the Earth brings forth its encrease; God grant we may walk worthy of his Mercies. Of other Grains, plenty. As to the Town, Building goeth on. *John Readman* is building one Brick House for *Richard Whitpain*, of sixty Foot long, and fifty six Foot wide. For the Widow *Farmer*, another Brick House. For *Thomas Barker* and *Samuel Jobson* two Brick Cellars, and Chimnies for back Kitchings. *Thomas Ducket* is Building a Brick House at the *Skulkil*, forty eight Foot long and three Stories high; there are two other Brick Houses to be built this Summer.

In a Letter, of the 2d of October, from David Lloyd, Clerk of the Peace, of the County of Philadelphia.

I shall only add, that five Ships are come in since our arrival, one from *Bristol*, with 100 Passengers; one from *Hull* with 160 Passengers; one from *New-England* for Corn, and two from *Barbadoes*; all of them, and ours (of above 300 Tun) had their loading here, ours for *New-England*, and the rest for *Barbadoes*; and for all this, Wheat (as good, I think, as any in *England*) is sold at three Shillings six pence *per Bushel*, this Country Money, and for three Shillings ready Money (which makes two Shillings five pence English Sterling) and if God continues his blessing to us, this Province will certainly be the Grainary of *America*. The Governours Vineyard goes on very well, the Grapes I have tasted of; which in fifteen Months are come to maturity.

In a Letter, of October last, from Thomas Holmes Surveyor General.

We have made three Purchases of the *Indians*, which, added unto the six former Sales they made us, will, I believe, be Land enough for Planters for this Age; they were at first High, and upon their Distances; but when we told them of the Kindness our Governour had always shown them; that the Price we offer'd far exceeded former Rates, and that they offered us the Land before we fought* them, they agreed to

* [Sought?]

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our last Offer, which is something under three hundred Pounds sterling. The Kings salute our Governour; they hardly ever see any of us, but they ask, with much affection when he will come to them again; we are upon very good terms with them. I intend to send the Draughts for a Map by the first—

*In a Letter from James Claypole Merchant in Philadelphia
and one of the Council.*

I have never seen brighter and better Corn then in these parts, especially in the County of *Chester*. Provisions very cheap; *Pork* at two Pence, and good fat fresh *Beef* at three half-pence the Pound, in our Market. *Fish* is plentiful; *Corn* cheap; *Wheat* three and six pence a Bushel; *Rye* half a Crown; *Indian Corn* two Shillings, of this Money: And it is without doubt that we shall have as good *Wine* as *France* produces. Here is great appearance of a Trade, and if we had small Money for Exchange, we should not want Returns. The *Whale-Fishery* is considerable; several Companies out to ketch them: There is one caught that its thought will make several hundred Barrels of Oyle. This besides *Tobacco* and *Skins*, and *Furs*, we have for Commerce.

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